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Items 100 (s), (w) and (y) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Nuclear disarmament

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons

Reducing nuclear danger

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

III. Information received from Governments

Japan

[Original: English]
[18 September 2007]

Commitment to the three non-nuclear principles

1. The Government of Japan continues to firmly commit itself to the three non-nuclear principles, which describe the policy of not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan. The successive Cabinets of Japan have repeatedly articulated that Japan will continue to uphold these principles.

Submission of Resolutions on Nuclear Disarmament to UN General Assembly

2. Since 1994, Japan has annually submitted draft resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly.

3. Since no substantial agreement was achieved at the Review Conference of the

* A/62/150.

Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in May 2005, and given that there still remain nuclear issues with both North Korea and Iran, it must be said that the recent international situation surrounding nuclear disarmament continues to be challenging. In this situation, Japan, as the only nation in the world to have suffered atomic bombings, inspired by the strong national sentiment calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and based on its core position that places great importance on aiming at a peaceful and safe world free from nuclear weapons through the steady continuation of a practical and incremental approach, submitted again a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the General Assembly. On 6 December 2006, that draft resolution, entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons", was adopted by the Assembly (resolution 61/74) by an overwhelming majority (167 countries in favour).

4. Although nuclear disarmament remains a challenging issue, Japan intends to pursue various diplomatic efforts to maintain and reinforce the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the NPT, responding to the political will of a large majority of the international community, which was expressed through the adoption of that resolution.

Efforts for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

5. Japan emphasizes the importance of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which constitutes one of the major pillars of the NPT regime. From this point of view, Japan has made various efforts, including the following:

(a) Japan has seized every high-level opportunity to convince States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT, especially those States listed in annex II to the Treaty, of the importance of its early entry into force;

(b) In September 2005, Tatsuo Arima, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan, attended the Fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, and called for the signing and ratification of the CTBT as early as possible. In the same vein, Hitoshi Kimura, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, attended the Fifth Conference, held in Vienna in September 2007;

(c) In March 2006, the Government of Japan invited the relevant officials of the Government of Viet Nam to Japan to visit our relevant international monitoring system facilities and to exchange views on the national implementation of the CTBT. Moreover, the Government of Japan invited the relevant officials of Colombia and Indonesia to Japan for the same purpose in March and July 2007, respectively, to promote the early ratification of both countries;

(d) In April 2007, prior to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Japan once again urged the 10 States whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force to sign and ratify the CTBT as soon as possible;

(e) As part of the establishment of the international monitoring system, the construction of domestic monitoring stations in Japan has been steadily progressing under the supervision of its CTBT National Operation System. To date, five domestic monitoring stations have been formally certified by the Provisional

Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission;

(f) In 2006 Japan invited 12 trainees to participate in a programme of technical assistance in the field of earthquake monitoring technology for the establishment of the international monitoring system in order to promote the entry into force of the CTBT. To date, the total number of participants in this training amounts to 119.

Activities in preparation for the commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations

6. Japan emphasizes the imperative for commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) negotiations. As a concrete contribution to this end, Japan presented, in May 2006, a working paper on the fissile material cut-off treaty to the Conference on Disarmament, aimed at deepening discussions on the substantive issues of the treaty and facilitating the early commencement of negotiations.

7. Japan has been doing its utmost to break the current stalemate of the Conference on Disarmament, thereby realizing the early commencement of negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty. Japan has redoubled its endeavours for this purpose by dispatching high-level missions to the Conference on Disarmament at various opportunities. During the 2006 session, both then Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Akiko Yamanaka and Speaker of the House of Representatives Yohei Kono delivered a speech stressing the pressing need for the commencement of negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty. On 13 March 2007, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masayoshi Hamada also made a statement at the Conference on Disarmament, urging the members to commence the negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty as early as possible, building upon the positive results at the first part of its 2007 session.

Contribution to the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty review process

8. As a tangible contribution to the preparatory process for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Japan put forward Ambassador Yukiya Amano for the chairmanship of the first session of the Preparatory Committee. Ambassador Amano's chairmanship contributed to a successful outcome of the session.

9. In addition, in February 2007, Japan hosted a seminar entitled "NPT on trial: How should we respond to the challenges of maintaining and strengthening the treaty regime?" The seminar, held in Vienna, provided an opportunity for an informal exchange of views on key issues among participants and to prepare the ground for a smooth start at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

10. On the first day of the first session of the Preparatory Committee, in April 2007, Masakazu Sekiguchi, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, made a general statement, stressing the importance of a successful outcome of the Review Conference.

11. Japan submitted to the Conference a comprehensive working paper on its position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.2) and a report on nuclear disarmament (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.4).

Furthermore, Japan submitted a working paper entitled "Japan's efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation education" (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.3).

Cooperation for denuclearization in Russia

12. At the Kananaskis Summit, in June 2002, Group of Eight (G-8) leaders announced the G-8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to address non-proliferation, disarmament, counter-terrorism and nuclear safety issues. Japan committed itself, for the purpose of this Partnership, to make a contribution of over $200 million, out of which $100 million is to be allocated to the G-8 programme for the disposal of surplus Russian weapon-grade plutonium and the remainder to projects for dismantling decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines. In December 2003, Japan and Russia launched the first cooperation project to dismantle a Victor III class decommissioned nuclear submarine under this Partnership. This project was successfully completed in December 2004. In November 2005, the implementing arrangement for dismantling five additional decommissioned nuclear submarines was signed. Recently, the dismantlement work on one of them, a Victor I class submarine, was completed and contracts for the dismantlement of three Victor III class submarines were concluded. Furthermore, in 2006, Japan decided to cooperate for the construction of an onshore storage facility for a reactor compartment at Razboynik Bay.

Efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education

13. In August 2002, the Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education submitted a report on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A resolution requesting the implementation of that report was adopted without a vote at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

14. Since 1983, Japan has invited more than 620 participants in the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme to Japan, including the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, providing these young officials, who will be responsible for future disarmament diplomacy, with an opportunity to witness the terrible and long-lasting devastation caused by the atomic bomb. Japan will continue to contribute to this programme.

15. Japan believes there is merit in raising awareness within the international community of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the ardent wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported, on a number of occasions, the efforts of local governments, non-governmental organizations, universities and various organizations to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs in foreign countries, including the Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bomb exhibition in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in August 2007.

16. To elucidate the current state of disarmament and non-proliferation and to gain broad understanding and support of the issue, the Government of Japan published the third edition of *Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy* in March 2006.

17. In its efforts to implement the aforementioned recommendations suggested in the 2002 report, Japan has invited prominent academics on disarmament and

non-proliferation to visit Japan. The academics have given lectures in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the necessity of weapons of mass destruction disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. In March 2007, Japan invited an academic specializing in the field of small arms and light weapons, who gave a lecture on the importance of addressing the small arms and light weapons problems.